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CLAIMS

- 1) A device for dispensing and distributing food for aquatic fauna, which can be fitted in aquariums or containers for holding live fish, but also in tanks for turtles and terrariums in general or similar, this device comprising a tank and means for pushing the food towards an outlet, characterised in that the tank (11) is positioned in a substantially horizontal direction and houses a pusher-mixer (12) which occupies the internal space of the tank and consists of a shaft (17) equipped with a plurality of sloping blades (18) all facing in the same direction as the direction in which the food is pushed towards the dispensing outlet (13); this dispensing outlet (13) presenting a substantially vertical opening for the discharge of the food in a horizontal direction.
- 2) A device for dispensing and distributing food according to the foregoing claim, characterised in that the end of the shaft (17) facing the dispensing area is equipped with a closing plate (19) positioned at right angles to the shaft (17) and occupying one of the two half-sections defined by the center line of the shaft (17); this closing plate (19) facing downwards with respect to the center line of the mixer when it is in the stationary or idle position.
- 3) A device for dispensing and distributing food according to either of the foregoing claims, characterised in that the plate (19) of the shaft (17) is functionally connected with the opening of the outlet (13) and according to its position, determined by the rotation of the shaft (17), allows or prevents food dispensing and prevents the entry of humidity rising from below.
- 4) A device for dispensing and distributing food according to any of the foregoing claims, characterised in that the outlet (13) can be equipped with a reversible perforated doser (20) which has two sections (21, 22) with different sized holes.
- 5) A device for dispensing and distributing food according to any of the foregoing claims, characterised in that the perforated doser (20), which can be used for dispensing granular products, can be inserted one way up

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or the other according to the grain size of the food product to be dispensed.

- 5 6) A device for dispensing and distributing food according to any of the foregoing claims, characterised in that the perforated dispenser (20) is inserted one way up or the other between two guides (23) positioned at the sides of the outlet (13), thus occupying the space and allowing controlled discharge of the food.
- 10 7) A device for dispensing and distributing food according to any of the foregoing claims, characterised in that as an alternative to the perforated doser (20) a sliding cover (24) can be used for dosing flake type products.
- 15 8) A device for dispensing and distributing food according to any of the foregoing claims, characterised in that the sliding cover (24), which slides in the same guides (23), can be moved to regulate the opening of the outlet (13) according to the amount of product to be dispensed into the aquarium.
- 20 9) A device for dispensing and distributing food according to any of the foregoing claims, characterised in that the shaft (17) is driven by an electric type motor (27), housed in the casing (14), this motor rotating a kinematic drive unit (28) which drives the power take-off (29) engaged on the end of the shaft (17) opposite the end fitted with the plate (19).
- 25 10) A device for dispensing and distributing food according to any of the foregoing claims, characterised in that the power take-off (29) is shaped so as to maintain a direct grip with the shaft (17), allowing control of the position of the mixer-dispenser (12), and thus of the plate (19), according to the revolutions of the shaft implemented by the drive unit (28).
- 30 11) A device for dispensing and distributing food according to any of the foregoing claims, characterised in that the tank (11) is the fixed type and is shaped so as to be held, together with the motor parts, between two casings (14, 15) opposite to each and specular with respect to the cylinder coupling area (16).

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- 12) A device for dispensing and distributing food according to any of the foregoing claims, characterised in that the casing (14) is designed to contain the parts driving the pusher-mixer (12), while the casing (15) houses the tank (11) and the pusher-mixer (12) and terminates, at its front end, with an outlet (13) equipped with closing means.
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